

Road Maintenance & Abandonment Plan (RMAP)
Questions and Answers
(Also see DNR website at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>)

1. What is an RMAP?

An RMAP is a landowner plan to address and complete road work on forest roads. The approved plan includes, in part, a prioritized assessment of work and a schedule to complete the work by July 1, 2016.

2. What is a forest road?

A forest road is a road on forest land that has been used since 1974 for forest practices or forest management, including fire control. Roads, lanes, ways, and driveways (gravel, dirt, paved) are included. Not included are skid trails, recreation trails, fire suppression trails, county roads or highways.

3. What is forest land?

Forest land includes all lands that can grow a marketable stand of timber and the present, active use of the land is compatible with growing the timber. For example, a field may be capable of growing timber but if it is being used to grow alfalfa, it is not considered forest land.

4. Does an RMAP need to include roads used for timber haul across non-forest (for example a fruit orchard) land?

No. RMAPs are required only for forest roads on forest lands.

5. Why do I have to do an RMAP?

The Forests & Fish Report set two important goals with regard to RMAPs: keeping family forestry viable in Washington state while creating clean water and fish habitat. The Washington state legislature directed the Forest Practices Board to adopt rules based on the Forests and Fish Report that included the RMAP process. The RMAP requirement is intended to help ensure that Washington's streams and rivers are healthy and Washington's fish recovery efforts will be successful. Research has shown that unless forest roads are properly maintained, they deliver significant amounts of dirt (sediment) into our streams and rivers which contributes to the degradation of fish habitat.

6. When is my RMAP required to be submitted to DNR?

All forest landowners are required to have an RMAP for all their forest roads by July 1, 2006. If a landowner with less than 500 acres of forest land in a DNR region submits a forest practices application prior to the 2006 due date, the application must include an RMAP for at least the forest roads used in the application. Within 1 year of submitting the application, that landowner must have an RMAP for the remainder of their forest land ownership. If a landowner has 500 or more acres of forest land in a DNR region, the landowner must submit an RMAP for at least 20% of their forest land each year.

7. What if I have forest land in more than one DNR region (Do I add up my forest land acreage for the whole state or by DNR region?)

Total your forest land acres for each separate DNR region. For each region in which you own less than 500 forest land acres, submit to each region an RMAP for your forest roads in that region using the "less than 500 acres" schedule. For each region in which you own 500 or more acres of forest land, submit to each region an RMAP forest for your forest roads using the "500 or more acres" schedule.